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*Scopus* 16: 57–58, July 1992

Received 14 January 1991

### Unusual bird records from Western Kenya including a new breeding record

During a short visit to Western Kenya in September 1991 I recorded the following species which are unusual in the area.

**Shining Blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadibrachys*** One was seen briefly on a wooded stream at Alupe, north of Busia (Lewis & Pomeroy 1989: square 48A) on 2 September. Although the views were brief the dark blue upperparts with paler blue stripe down the mantle and rump, and blackish bill were noted. There is a previous record from this site on 21 August 1990 (East African Bird Report 1990, *Scopus* in press).

**Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis*** Two seen at a wooded creek near Mungatsi (48C) on 2 September. An adult was seen in company with a juvenile in dense low bushes alongside the stream. The adult was extremely secretive but the juvenile was quite conspicuous and uttered begging calls. The adult was not heard to call and identification was based on the warm brown unstreaked upperparts, lack of dark lores and whitish underparts. The juvenile was brighter in colour on the upperparts and had a yellowish-buff wash on the underparts. Although the adult was not actually seen to feed the juvenile, the behaviour of the two birds indicated that the juvenile was dependent and was being cared for by the adult. This would be a new breeding record for QSD 48C.

**Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius*** A male was seen well at close range in low bushes along a creek near Mungatsi (48C) on 2 September. The slender pink bill, black ocular mark and bright orange-yellow colouration were noted.

**Black-bellied Seed-cracker *Pyrenestes ostrinus*** Two observed along a wooded stream at Alupe (48A) on 2 September. The birds were only seen in flight, my attention being drawn to the first bird by a curious sharp metallic call. I was able to see that the entire head, breast, flanks, uppertail coverts and upperside of the tail were crimson, the belly

and undertail coverts were black and the bird had a prominent pale bluish bill. The flight was rather erratic and undulating at about the height of the top of the surrounding vegetation (c. 5 m). The bird circled round and was then joined by a second which followed it in flight. I presumed that the second bird was a female on the basis of the black plumage being replaced by brown but I could not rule out the possibility of it being a juvenile. However, the behaviour of these two birds suggested that the species may breed at this site. This would appear to be the second record for Kenya (see Stevenson 1992) and the first from this QSD.

**Magpie Mannikin *Lonchura fringilloides*** While walking through overgrown agricultural land close to a stream at Alupe (48A) on 2 September I noticed four Magpie Mannikins with small parties of Bronze Mannikins *L. cucullata*. The birds were seen extremely well at close range in good light. They were noticeably larger than the Bronze, with heavy bluish-horn coloured bills, well defined black pectoral patches on otherwise unmarked white underparts and had no barring on the remiges or uppertail coverts. The call was a distinctive *tee-oo*. Although the birds were feeding in company with Bronze Mannikins they kept together as a group of four and when flushed they flew to a low bush and did not associate with the Bronze. The species is known from several localities in the Bwamba lowlands of Uganda but not from the southeast of that country. This record would appear to be only the second Kenya record (Kitovu Forest, near Taveta, see East African Bird Report 1989). The site is only a few kilometres from the Uganda border, but c. 475 km from the Bwamba lowlands and c. 575 km from the Taveta site of the other recent record.

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*Scopus* 16: 58-59, July 1992

Received 18 November 1991

## New records for Uganda and Tanzania along the Rwandan and Burundian borders

**Violet-crested Turaco *Tauraco porphyreolophus*** Following Britton (1980), this species was recorded only once in southern Ankole, Uganda. It occurs throughout the year in riparian forest and associated acacia woodland along the Akagera River at Merama Hill on the Rwandan border, and as far east as Kikagati.

**Mottled Swift *Apus aequatorialis*** There is a small breeding colony of this species on a cliff overhanging the Akagera River at Rusumo Falls in northwestern Tanzania.

**Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus*** This species is common along the border between Tanzania and Rwanda or Burundi in open riparian forest, in the acacia